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# Lost minds: The silent crisis of brain drain in Seychelles

IN the quiet corners of our country, a silent crisis is unfolding. Known as "brain drain", this phenomenon—the emigration of highly skilled and educated individuals to more developed nations—is leaving a profound mark on our economy and society.

The departure of professionals such as engineers, economists, scientists, and academics, is becoming acute in our country. Economic instability, political unrest, and limited professional opportunities in our country drive many of the brightest minds to seek a future elsewhere.

The economic impact of brain drain on our fragile economy is severe. We invest substantial resources in educating our citizens, only to see them leave when they become economically productive. This results in a significant loss of potential economic growth. Critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and technology suffer the most.

For instance, a shortage of healthcare professionals can lead to inadequate medical services, directly affecting public health. In the education sector, the

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**The departure of professionals such as engineers, economists, scientists, and academics, is becoming acute in our country.**

absence of qualified teachers and researchers hinders the development of the next generation of leaders and innovators. Without a skilled workforce, our country struggle to attract foreign investment, further stagnating our economic growth.

The social fabric of our nations is also fraying. The departure of educated individuals often means a loss of community leaders, mentors, and role models. This brain drain results in diminished aspirations among the youth, who may see emigration as the only path to success. Communities lose the very people who could drive social change and development.

Moreover, the loss of skilled individuals creates a cycle of brain waste.



Many emigrants find their qualifications and skills underutilized in their new countries, leading to personal dissatisfaction and a waste of human potential. This situation not only affects the individuals but also represents a global loss of talent.

To combat brain drain, our country needs a comprehensive strategy from the incumbent LDS administration. Creating a conducive environment for professional and personal growth is crucial. This involves investing in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and technology to improve living

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## Lost minds: The silent crisis of brain drain in Seychelles

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conditions and provide attractive opportunities for skilled professionals.

The LDS administration must also implement policies to ensure economic stability and foster growth. Supporting local businesses, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and offering incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship can help retain talent. Ensuring political stability and strengthening democratic institutions are equally important.

While brain drain presents challenges, it also offers opportunities. The diaspora can become a valuable asset if effectively engaged. We can benefit from the skills, knowledge, and networks; through initiatives such as knowledge transfer programs, investment in local projects, and mentorship schemes.

The silent crisis of brain drain may seem insurmountable, but with strategic planning and commitment, we can turn this challenge into an opportunity. By fostering an environment that encourages talent retention and leveraging the potential of our diaspora, our nations can not only mitigate the adverse effects of brain drain but also pave the way for sustainable growth and development.

As we strive to keep our brightest minds within our borders, the focus must remain on creating opportunities that match the aspirations of our talented citizens. Only then can the tide of brain drain be turned, ensuring a prosperous future for all. 🗳️

**LAVENIR**  
*Pen an Meyer Sesel dman!*



Published by  
**Seychelles United Movement**

House Of Francis, Ile Du Port,  
Mahe, Seychelles  
Tel: +248 2525857  
Email: [cm@sum.sc](mailto:cm@sum.sc)

## President of the Republic vows to fix health system amidst public outcry

**I**N a bid to mitigate escalating concerns, the President recently convened with high-level management staff of Victoria Hospital; acknowledging the dire state of the country's health system. During the meeting, the President candidly admitted that the healthcare system is in disarray and vowed to implement necessary reforms to address its deficiencies.

This announcement comes on the heels of a striking development where individuals across various age groups, including the young, elderly, and infirm, formed long queues to seek medical attention from the Chinese Floating Hospital. This unusual influx underscores the public's desperation and the severe inadequacies plaguing the national healthcare infrastructure.

Patients and their families voiced their frustrations openly, with many directing their ire towards the Ministry of Health. They cited prolonged suffering and dire health conditions exacerbated by the lack of efficient and accessible medical services.

"I have been waiting here for hours just to get a consultation," lamented one



A modern health care system

elderly patient. "Our own hospitals can't provide the care we need, and it's the Ministry of Health's fault."

The President assured the public that immediate actions will be taken to overhaul the health system, although specifics on the planned measures remain to be seen. This commitment marks a critical juncture for the administration, as they seek to restore public trust and improve health outcomes for the nation.

As the situation unfolds, all eyes will be on the government's next steps and their ability to deliver on the promises made to alleviate the healthcare crisis. 🗳️

## Ladministrasyon LDS pape fer ase pour lit kont problem drog

LABI drog I resteen problem mazer pour noupei, an efe I dezyenmpli gran problem ki Gouvernmen I devret adrese. Sa I en lenformasyon ki in ganny resorti e konfirman dan enletid par 'Afro Barometer', July 2024. (En lorganizasyon 'Pan-African e non-partisan).

Sa letid in montre ki labi drog eroin in montplis ki 4 fwadepi 2011- 2019, e la nou 2024, nou pa pe war li pe regrese. Sa letid I osi montre ki plis ki 10% Seselwa ek laz mazer pe abiz drog, sa otomatikman pour annan en lefe negativ lo to lanplwa dan Sesel. Entelsif I vreman efreyan pour enn pti popilasyon mwens ki 100mil dimoun. Avek en tel statistik I met Sesel premye dan lemon, par latet zabitan kipe servi plis drog eroin.

Divizyon responsab pour



prevansyon labi sibstans, tretman e reabilitasyon (DSAPTR) in deza annan bann program vize ver redwir labi sibstans, par egzanpsa program methadone. Me eski I annan okenn letid ki in ganny fer pour evalye lefikasite entel program, anvi ki problem drog pe kontinnyen ogmante. Sa I ganny demontre dan lakantite drog ki in antre dan pei pour lannen 2023, kotplis ki 1.2 tonn drog a envaler R1 billion tiganny sezi. En sif

Vwar paz 3



# Government withdraws from EASF: A historical peace initiative at risk

**I**N a surprising move, the incumbent government has announced its withdrawal from the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF), before the general elections. This decision has ignited a heated debate about its implications for both national security and regional stability.

The Eastern African Standby Force was established as part of the African Union's (AU) broader peace and security framework. Initiated in 2000, the EASF aimed to enhance regional cooperation in the maintenance of peace and security. As one of the five regional standby forces under the African Standby Force (ASF), the EASF has played a crucial role in responding to crises, conflict prevention, and peacekeeping operations across Eastern Africa.

The EASF's primary objectives include:

- Rapid deployment of military, police, and civilian components to address crises.
- Supporting peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

## Ladministrasyon LDS pape fè pou li kont problem drog

ki endike ki demann l ankor vreman eleve.

La kot nou konstate ki ladministrasyon LDS, anba direksyon Wavel Ramkalawan koman Prezidan, pa pe met asezefor pou li kont sa fleo. Napa gran sanzman lo kot enoutiete ziska ozordi. I mank senerite lo lapar gouvènmman LDS pou remède sa sitiyasyon.

S.U.M, komanen parti politik ki serye e konsemen ek sa problem drog, pou met bokou lanfaz lo reabilitasyon nou bann frè ek ser kin ganny afekte ek sa lepidemi. Sa l pou vin atrever bann program konpreansiv vizever zot reabilitasyon. E dezyenman, plis lanfaz pou ganny mete lo lanpesman drog antre dan nou pei. Kot plis resous pou a dispozisyon tou bann profesyonèl e divizyon ki pe deal ek sa problem. 🌐



**The EASF plays a vital role in maintaining peace and security in the region. One of the primary benefits of EASF membership is the ability to participate in a coordinated and rapid response to security threats.**

- Enhancing regional cooperation and coordination in security matters.

The government has justified its decision to withdraw from the EASF by claiming lack of membership benefits; particularly in the area of maritime security, and the need for redirecting funds previously allocated to EASF. As debates continue over the government's recent decision to withdraw from the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF), it's crucial to understand the myriad benefits that membership in this regional security organization provides to its member states.

The EASF plays a vital role in maintaining peace and security in the region. One of the primary benefits of EASF membership is the ability to participate in a coordinated and rapid response to security threats. The EASF provides a ready mechanism for member states to deploy military, police, and civilian personnel quickly in the face of crises such as armed conflict, natural disasters, or political instability. This collective approach enhances the security of all member states by addressing threats before they escalate into larger regional or international crises.

The EASF is instrumental in peacekeeping and conflict prevention

efforts across Eastern Africa. Member states benefit from participating in joint training exercises, sharing best practices, and developing standardized procedures for peacekeeping missions. These activities not only improve the operational capabilities of national forces but also foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual support among neighbouring countries.

Through the EASF, member states have access to extensive training programs and capacity-building initiatives. These programs are designed to enhance the skills and expertise of

military, police, and civilian personnel in areas such as conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, and disaster management. By investing in these training opportunities, member states strengthen their national institutions and improve their ability to manage a wide range of security challenges.

Membership in the EASF promotes regional cooperation and solidarity. The organization serves as a platform for dialogue and collaboration among member states, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for regional security. This cooperative approach helps to build trust and reduce tensions between countries, contributing to a more stable and peaceful region.

Stability and security are essential for economic development. By participating in the EASF, member states contribute to a more secure environment that is conducive to investment and economic growth. Reduced conflict and improved security can lead to increased trade, tourism, and development opportunities, benefiting the economies of all member states.

Being part of the EASF also enhances the political and diplomatic influence of member states within the African Union and the international community. Active participation in regional security initiatives demonstrates a commitment to peace and stability, bolstering a country's standing and credibility on the global stage.

The principle of collective security underpinning the EASF means that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. This assurance of mutual

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## Government withdraws from EASF: A historical peace initiative at risk

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defense provides a significant deterrent against external aggression and internal threats, offering a layer of security that individual states might struggle to achieve on their own.

Political analysts suggest that the timing of this decision is strategic, aimed at boosting the incumbent government's standing ahead of the elections. By claiming maritime security and financial

consideration, the government seeks to appeal to nationalist and patriotic sentiments among the electorate.

The announcement has raised concerns about the potential impact on regional stability and cooperation. Critics argue that withdrawing from the EASF could weaken the collective security framework in Eastern Africa, making it more challenging to address regional crises effectively.

At home, the withdrawal has sparked mixed reactions. Supporters praise the government for prioritizing reallocation of resources to essential domestic programs. However, opposition parties have criticized the move as short-sighted

and potentially harmful to the country's long-term security. "This is a reckless decision that jeopardizes our regional standing and security," stated an opposition leader.

As the election campaign intensifies, the decision to pull out from the EASF is set to remain a contentious issue. While the government hopes that this calculated move will bolster its electoral prospects, the long-term consequences for national and regional security are yet to be fully understood. Voters will ultimately decide whether this bold decision was in the nation's best interest when they head to the polls in 2025. 🗳️

## Surge in illegal drug activity contradicts Presidential claims

**R**ECENT reports indicate a significant uptick in illegal drug activity across the nation, contradicting the President's recent assurances of effective drug control measures.

Despite government initiatives aimed at curbing the illicit drug trade, data from law enforcement and health agencies reveal an alarming rise in both the availability and use of illegal substances. This surge is reflected in increased drug-related arrests, higher rates of drug overdoses, and a noticeable uptick in drug-related hospital admissions.

Experts attribute this spike to several factors, including increased production and trafficking efforts by organized crime syndicates, as well as a growing demand for certain narcotics. Moreover, the economic hardships faced by many during



the current economic downturn are believed to have exacerbated the problem, pushing more individuals towards drug use as a coping mechanism.

The discrepancy between the President's statements and the current reality on the ground has sparked widespread

concern and criticism. Critics argue that the administration's policies have been ineffective, calling for a more robust and comprehensive approach to tackle the root causes of drug addiction and trafficking.

Many believe that without significant policy changes and increased support for addiction treatment programs, and proper training and supports for law enforcement, the problem will continue to escalate.

As we grapple with this growing crisis as a nation, the need for transparent communication and effective action has never been more crucial. The public awaits a response from the LDS administration that addresses the gravity of the situation and offers concrete solutions to mitigate the rise in illegal drug activity. 🗳️

## The Defence Forces denied and delay sea time allowance

**I**N a development causing widespread concern among SDF service members, the Defence Forces have recently been criticized for denying and delaying sea time allowances to their personnel. This allowance, crucial for those who serve extended periods at sea, has faced bureaucratic hurdles, leaving many service members in financial distress.

Sea time allowance is designed to compensate naval personnel for the



extended periods they spend away from home, often under challenging and dangerous conditions. However, recent reports indicate that a significant number of sailors have either been denied this allowance or have experienced substantial delays in receiving it.

"We put our lives on the line, and this is

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**I**N recent months, the Port Authority's handling of operations has sparked widespread concern and criticism, with many experts warning that the current state of affairs poses a severe threat to national security and interests. The mismanagement at the Port Authority is not merely an administrative issue; it is a national crisis.

One of the most alarming aspects of the Port Authority's mismanagement is the significant security vulnerabilities that have emerged. Critics reveal that security protocols are frequently ignored or inadequately enforced, creating potential entry points for illicit activities, including smuggling. This laxity compromises the safety of the entire nation, making it imperative for immediate corrective action.

The Port Authority's inefficiencies are also taking a toll on the economy. Delays in processing and handling cargo have led to substantial financial losses for businesses that rely on timely shipments. The ripple effects of these delays are felt across various sectors, exacerbating the economic strain in an already challenging fiscal environment.

Environmental oversight appears to be

## The Defence Forces denied and delay sea time allowance

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how we're treated?" said one sailor who wished to remain anonymous. "It's demoralizing to know that after months at sea, the compensation we're entitled to isn't guaranteed."

Another sailor recounted the impact on their family: "My family depends on this allowance. Without it, we've struggled to make ends meet. It's not just about the money; it's about respect for our service."

Advocates and military servicemen associations are calling for immediate reforms to streamline the allowance process. "Our sailors deserve better," said a representative from the ex-servicemen association "The current system is failing them, and we need urgent action to fix it."

As pressure mounts, the National Assembly has been caused to look into the matter and asked the High command of the Defence Forces to ensure timely payments. For now, sailors and their families remain hopeful that their voices will be heard and their service adequately compensated. ☺

# Mismanagement of the Port Authority: A catastrophic threat to national security and interests

another casualty of the current mismanagement. There have been hazardous materials being improperly stored or disposed of, posing significant risks to the surrounding communities and ecosystems. The long-term environmental impact of these practices could be devastating, necessitating urgent intervention and stricter regulatory compliance.

Calls for accountability and reform are growing louder. Stakeholders from various sectors are demanding that the Port Authority leadership be held responsible for their actions and inactions. Proposed measures include a thorough audit of the organization's operations, restructuring of the management team, and implementation of more stringent oversight mechanisms.



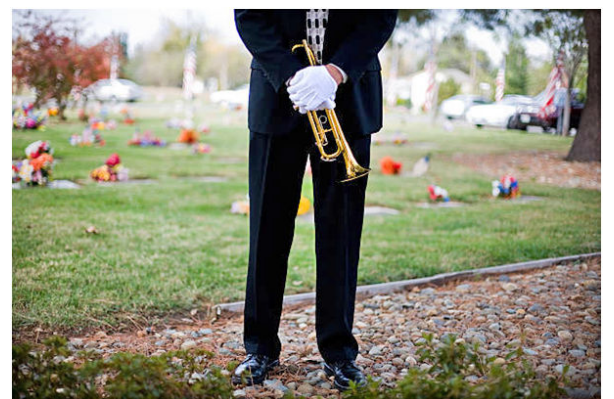
The mismanagement at the Port Authority is a matter of grave national concern. The implications for national security, economic stability, and environmental health are profound. SUM insists that swift and comprehensive measures are taken to address these issues and restore confidence in the institution tasked with safeguarding the nation's ports. The future of national security and prosperity depends on it. ☺

## The demise of the Seychelles National Brass Band

THE Seychelles National Brass Band has historically been the heart and soul of national ceremonies, providing stirring renditions of patriotic songs and anthems. The band's unique ability to convey the spirit of national pride through music is irreplaceable and must be preserved.

However, in recent years, the band has faced numerous challenges. Musicians are leaving the band in great numbers, citing various issues that have gone unresolved for years. One of the most significant problems is the lack of increment in payment for the past 25 years. This financial stagnation has led to dissatisfaction and demotivation among band members.

Furthermore, there is no Scheme of Service available, which has



compounded the issue. The Defence Forces, which are legally mandated to manage the brass band, have shown no expertise or interest in effectively managing a musical organization. This mismanagement has resulted in outdated musical instruments and a lack of investment from the incumbent government.

Training for the musicians is virtually

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## The demise of the Seychelles National Brass Band

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non-existent, and many of them hold no formal musical grades. Additionally, there has been no recruitment of new musicians to replace the old ones, leading to a depletion of talent and skills within the band.

The government's preference for inviting brass bands from abroad instead of investing in the national brass band has been seen as a slap in the face by the current members. This approach is not only intimidating but also demoralizing for the national musicians.

The President of the Republic has occasionally; while on official visit abroad, praised the performance of foreign brass band, but totally ignore our own National Brass Band. This action has added insult to injury for the struggling musicians of our national ensemble, which frequently perform at the State House in the presence of the president himself. With the band already facing numerous challenges, this lack of recognition, respect and support from the highest office in the country feels like a significant blow to their morale.

The decision of the president underscores the broader issues of neglect and underinvestment that have plagued our National Brass Band for years. It is indeed a "shame that the talents and efforts of our national musicians are being overlooked in favour of those from abroad," claim a veteran musician of the band.

With no clear plan or vision for the future, the fate of the National Brass Band remains unknown and unpredictable. The once-proud institution is now struggling to survive, and without urgent intervention and investment, it may soon become a relic of the past.

The SUM calls on the incumbent government to recognize, appreciate, and invest in the National Brass Band; an institution that has historically made the country proud; given the critical role the band plays in national pride and cultural heritage.

The SUM further criticize the LDS administration's practice of inviting foreign brass bands for national events, viewing it as a direct affront to the talents of our local musicians. Such actions not only demoralize the national band members but also undermine the country's cultural legacy.

Calling for immediate action, SUM urges the LDS administration to implement a Scheme of Service for the

band members, ensure regular training and recruitment of new musicians, and invest in new instruments. Only with proper support and investment, that our National Brass Band can once again become a symbol of national pride and excellence.

Last but not least, the SUM passionately call on the incumbent

government to restore the national brass band's traditional role in orchestrating and interpreting national lyrics; in a move to preserve our cultural heritage and maintain the historical significance of our brass band and to honour our nation's musical history and foster a sense of national pride. ☺

## The voices of the people clouded by political vows from the incumbent government

IN the midst of a heated election season, concerns are growing over the overshadowing of public voices by the political vows and promises of the incumbent government. Many citizens feel that their real issues and needs are being drowned out by the grandiose pledges of those currently in power.

As the election draws near, the current administration has ramped up its campaign efforts, focusing on ambitious projects and reforms aimed at securing votes. These include promises of economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare improvements. While such promises are common during election periods, there is growing discontent among the populace who feel their genuine concerns are being ignored.

Public sentiment reflects a deep-seated frustration. Jane Joe; a local school teacher, voiced her concerns: "While the government talks about future projects, our schools are underfunded, and our students are suffering now. We need immediate action, not just promises for tomorrow."

Similarly, small business owner John Bull, expressed his dissatisfac



tion: "The government talks about boosting the economy, but small businesses like mine are struggling to survive. We need support now, not just during election season."

The incumbent government has made several high-profile promises, including:

1. **Economic Growth:** Pledges to create thousands of jobs and boost the national GDP through various projects.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Plans to build to modernize our country.
3. **Social Welfare:** Promises to expand healthcare, education, and social security programs.

Despite these promises, there is widespread scepticism among the electorate. Many view these vows as political tactics designed to garner votes rather than genuine commit

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## The voices of the people clouded by political vows from the incumbent government

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ments to address pressing issues., "It's a classic case of election rheto-

emphasis a responsible senior citizen". The real test is whether these promises translate into actual policy changes post-election."

Media coverage has largely focused on the political promises, often sidelining the voices of everyday citizens. This has further fuelled the perception that the government is more interested in securing votes than addressing immediate concerns. Social media platforms have become a battleground for these discussions.

The people demand more attention to their current struggles.

As the election approaches, the tension between political promises and public needs continues to grow. The voices of the people, clouded by political vows, demand to be heard and addressed. The outcome of the election may well hinge on whether the incumbent government can bridge the gap between its promises and the real, immediate needs of its our citizens. 🗳️

# Why global voters are opting for reform

IN recent years, a significant shift has been observed in the voting patterns across the globe. Voters are increasingly leaning towards candidates and parties advocating for substantial reforms. This trend is driven by various socio-economic, political, and environmental factors that have galvanized public opinion in favour of change.

Economic inequality remains a critical issue worldwide. Disparities in wealth and income distribution have widened, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the lower and middle classes. Many voters feel that traditional political parties have failed to address these economic concerns adequately. Reform-oriented candidates promise to tackle these issues through policies aimed at reducing inequality, providing better social services, and ensuring fair wages.

Corruption scandals and lack of accountability have plagued numerous governments, eroding public trust in traditional political institutions. Voters are now demanding transparency, integrity, and accountability from their leaders. Reformist candidates often campaign on platforms of anti-corruption, proposing measures to clean up government institutions and ensure that public officials are held accountable for their actions.

The global movement for social justice and human rights has gained significant momentum. Issues such as racial equality, gender rights, and LGBTQ+ rights are at the forefront of political debates. Voters



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**The growing trend of voters opting for reform is a reflection of widespread dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.**

**As this trend continues, the political landscape is likely to evolve, with reform-oriented leaders gaining prominence and traditional parties being compelled to adapt to the changing demands of their electorates.**

are increasingly supporting candidates who advocate for comprehensive reforms to protect and promote human rights and to create inclusive societies where all individuals are treated equitably.

Climate change and environmental degradation have become urgent global issues. Voters are more aware than ever of the need for sustainable policies to protect the planet for future generations. Reform-oriented political platforms often include ambitious plans to combat climate change, promote renewable

energy, and preserve natural resources. This focus on environmental sustainability resonates with voters who are concerned about the long-term health of the planet.

The rapid pace of technological advancement has transformed economies and societies. However, it has also led to job displacement and concerns about data privacy and security. Voters are looking for leaders who can navigate

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## Why global voters are opting for reform

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these changes effectively, ensuring that technological progress benefits society as a whole. Reformist candidates often propose innovative solutions to integrate technology into public policy while addressing its potential downsides.

The rise of populist movements around the world has also influenced voter behaviour. Populist leaders often position

themselves as outsiders challenging the status quo, promising to return power to the people. While populism can sometimes lead to divisive politics, it has undeniably sparked a demand for reform among the electorate, who feel disenfranchised by traditional political systems.

Globalization has brought about significant economic growth and interconnectedness. However, it has also led to job losses in certain sectors, cultural homogenization, and a sense of loss of national identity. Voters are increasingly supporting candidates who propose reforms to manage globalization's impact more effectively, advocating for policies that protect local

industries and cultural heritage while still engaging in the global economy.

The growing trend of voters opting for reform is a reflection of widespread dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs. Economic inequality, political corruption, social justice issues, environmental concerns, technological changes, and the impacts of globalization are driving voters to seek out leaders who promise significant change. As this trend continues, the political landscape is likely to evolve, with reform-oriented leaders gaining prominence and traditional parties being compelled to adapt to the changing demands of their electorates. 🗳️

## WORLD POPULATION DAY MESSAGE

### Message from the SUM Leader on World Population Day – 11 July 2024

As we mark World Population Day, the SUM has issued a statement highlighting the critical issues related to population growth and urging immediate action to address them.

The leader of the SUM, Mr. Maarco Francis emphasized the importance of recognizing the challenges and opportunities that come with a growing global population. In his message, he stated:

"On this World Population Day, we reflect on the profound impact that population growth has on our planet. It is imperative that we address the issues of sustainable development, resource management, and environmental protection. Our government must implement comprehensive policies that ensure equitable access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for all citizens.

We must also recognize the significant role that women play in population dynamics. Empow-



**SUM leader Maarco Francis**

ering women through education and healthcare, particularly reproductive health services, is essential for sustainable development. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a prosperous and sustainable world.

Moreover, our focus should extend

to the youth, who represent the future of our nation. We need to invest in their education, skill development, and employment opportunities to harness their potential and drive economic growth.

SUM calls on the current government to take decisive actions to address the pressing issues related to population growth. This includes creating policies that promote family planning, improving healthcare infrastructure, and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. We also urge international cooperation to address global population challenges, as they require a coordinated and collective response.

In conclusion, let us use this day to reaffirm our commitment to creating a sustainable and equitable future for all. Population growth should be seen not as a threat, but as an opportunity to foster innovation, collaboration, and progress."